

REMARKS

The Examiner contends that the instant application contains multiple inventions. The Examiner requires restriction to one of the following groups of claims which the Examiner alleges defines a separate invention:

Group I – claims 1, 2, 4-6, 14-19, 37-39 and 41, drawn to a paste comprising bacterial cell wall components (CWS).

Group II – claim 7-10, drawn to a process for preparation of a paste.

Group III – claim 11, drawn to a paste comprising bacterial CWS

Group IV – claims 20 and 21, drawn to a process for preparation of a paste.

Group V – claims 24 and 25, drawn to an assembly of bacterial CWS particles.

Group VI - claims 26-28, drawn to a process for the assembly of bacterial CWS particles.

Group VII – claims 29-30 and 33-36, drawn to a process for the identification of a species and/or strain of a bacterium.

Group VIII – claims 31 and 32, drawn to a process for assay of immunopotentiating activity of a bacterial CWS.

Group IX - claims 22 and 40, drawn to a paste that is lyophilized.

The Examiner contends that the groups listed are not related to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because they lack the same or corresponding special technical features (PCT Rule 13.2).

Applicants elect to pursue the claims of Group I.

Applicants submit that the current claims define novel, non-obvious patentable subject matter. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, she is requested to contact the undersigned.

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the required fee of \$120 to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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